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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Mr. Robert S. Ingersoll
Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries
Committee
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob,

I am distressed to learn of your October 14 proposal to terminate the Foreign Affairs Executive Seminar. As you indicate in your memorandum (NSC-U/N-160), there is widespread agreement that the requirement for the kind of training FAES provides continues, and that the current FAES program very adequately fulfills that requirement. Particularly in Defense, as you know, we regard this program as extremely valuable.

The Department of Defense is the principal participant, in terms of numbers of personnel assigned, in the FAES. The seminar provides the only short-term interagency training course in which representatives of major US agencies concerned with implementation of national security policies can exchange ideas on the factors affecting foreign policy. We have found the training particularly important for military personnel assigned to sensitive politico-military duties abroad such as attaches and foreign military advisors. The leadership provided by participant Foreign Service Officers in considering foreign affairs matters has been most helpful to these military officers.

I urge that you reconsider the abolition of the FAES and agree to let our staffs seek to work out whatever adjustments may be necessary to assure its continuation. At a minimum, however, I hope you will direct that the program be continued through this fiscal year while alternative training mechanisms are explored.

Sincerely,

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Clements

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From: Sonnenberger to

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